

Claims:

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

1. **(Currently Amended)** A system for processing prescription requests, comprising:

a first pharmacy prescription processing subsystem; and

a central fill prescription processing subsystem coupled to saidthe first pharmacy prescription processing subsystem and a second pharmacy subsystem by a transmission medium, saidthe first pharmacy prescription processing subsystem operable to:

receive a plurality of prescription requests;

create a queue of prescription requests from saidthe received plurality of prescription requests, each prescription request in saidthe queue eligible to be filled by a central fill inventory;

convert saidthe queue of prescription requests to a transmission format; and

transmit saidthe converted queue of prescription requests to saidthe central fill prescription processing subsystem by saidthe transmission medium; and

saidthe central fill prescription processing subsystem operable to:

receive saidthe converted queue of prescription requests with saidthe transmission format;

convert saidthe queue of prescription requests from saidthe transmission format to a processing format;

fill a plurality of prescription requests in saidthe queue of prescription requests from saidthe central fill inventory; and

dispense a plurality of drugs from saidthe central fill inventory, saidthe dispensed plurality of drugs associated with saidthe plurality of filled prescription requests.

2. **(Currently Amended)** The system of Claim 1, wherein saidthe transmission medium comprises at least one Unix Tunnel Daemon.

3. **(Currently Amended)** The system of Claim 1, wherein **saidthe** transmission medium comprises at least one STP Daemon.

4. **(Currently Amended)** The system of Claim 1, wherein **saidthe** transmission format comprises a packet data format.

5. **(Currently Amended)** The system of Claim 1, wherein **saidthe** pharmacy prescription processing subsystem operates in a TCP/IP network.

6. **(Currently Amended)** The system of Claim 1, further comprising an IVR system for entering at least one of **saidthe** plurality of prescription requests to **saidthe** pharmacy prescription processing subsystem.

7. **(Currently Amended)** The system of Claim 1, further comprising:
a PDX Host system coupled to **saidthe** pharmacy prescription processing subsystem; and
an NHIN system coupled to **saidthe** PDX Host system and **saidthe** central fill prescription processing subsystem.

8. **(Currently Amended)** The system of Claim 1, further comprising a billing subsystem coupled to **saidthe** pharmacy prescription processing subsystem, **saidthe** billing subsystem operable to process a claim for payment for at least one of **saidthe** plurality of prescription requests.

9. **(Currently Amended)** A pharmacy prescription processing system, comprising:

means for entering a prescription request; and

a processor coupled to **saidthe** means for entering, **saidthe** processor operable to:

receive a plurality of prescription requests;

create a queue of prescription requests from **saidthe** received plurality of prescription requests, each prescription request in **saidthe** queue eligible to be filled by a central fill inventory;

convert **saidthe** queue of prescription requests to a transmission format; and

transmit **saidthe** converted queue of prescription requests to a central fill prescription processing system that dispenses a plurality of drugs from the central fill inventory based, at least in part, on the transmitted queue of prescription requests.

10. **(Currently Amended)** A central fill prescription processing system, comprising:

~~a processor; and~~

a central fill ~~inventory; inventory; and said processor~~

a processor coupled to ~~said the~~ central fill inventory and operable to:

receive a queue of prescription requests in a predetermined transmission format
from a pharmacy system;

convert ~~said the~~ queue of prescription requests from ~~said the~~ predetermined transmission format to a processing format;

fill a plurality of prescription requests in ~~said the~~ queue of prescription requests from ~~said the~~ central fill inventory; and

dispense a plurality of drugs from ~~said the~~ central fill inventory, ~~said the~~ dispensed plurality of drugs associated with ~~said the~~ plurality of filled prescription requests.

11. **(Currently Amended)** A pharmacy prescription processing method, comprising the steps of:

receiving a plurality of prescription requests;

creating a queue of prescription requests from said the received plurality of prescription requests, each prescription request in said the queue eligible to be filled by a central fill inventory;

converting said the queue of prescription requests to a transmission format; and

transmitting said the converted queue of prescription requests to a central fill prescription processing system that dispenses a plurality of drugs from the central fill inventory based, at least in part, on the transmitted queue of prescription requests.

12. **(Currently Amended)** A central fill prescription processing method, comprising the steps of:

receiving a queue of prescription requests in a predetermined transmission format from a provider;

converting said the queue of prescription requests from said the predetermined transmission format to a processing format;

filling a plurality of prescription requests in said the queue of prescription requests from a central fill inventory; and

dispensing a plurality of drugs from said the central fill inventory, said the dispensed plurality of drugs associated with said the plurality of filled prescription requests.

13. **(Currently Amended)** A method for processing prescription ~~requests,~~
~~requests~~ comprising ~~the steps of:~~

a pharmacy prescription processing ~~subsystem~~subsystem:

_____ receiving a plurality of prescription requests, at least one of the prescription requests received from a physician and at least one of the prescription requests received from a patient;

_____ creating a queue of prescription requests from ~~said~~the received plurality of prescription requests, each prescription request in ~~said~~the queue eligible to be filled by a central fill inventory;

_____ converting ~~said~~the queue of prescription requests to a transmission format;

_____ transmitting ~~said~~the converted queue of prescription requests to a central fill prescription processing subsystem;

~~said~~the central fill prescription processing ~~subsystem~~subsystem:

_____ receiving ~~said~~the converted queue of prescription requests;

_____ converting ~~said~~the queue of prescription requests from ~~said~~the transmission format to a processing format;

_____ filling a plurality of prescription requests in ~~said~~the queue of prescription requests from ~~said~~the central fill inventory; and

_____ dispensing a plurality of drugs from ~~said~~the central fill inventory, ~~said~~the dispensed plurality of drugs associated with ~~said~~the plurality of filled prescription requests.

14. **(Currently Amended)** The method of Claim 13, wherein ~~said~~the transmitting step comprises transmitting ~~said~~the converted queue of prescription requests with at least one Unix Tunnel Daemon.

15. **(Currently Amended)** The method of Claim 13, wherein ~~said~~the transmitting step comprises transmitting ~~said~~the converted queue of prescription requests with at least one STP Daemon.

16. **(Currently Amended)** The method of Claim 13, wherein ~~said~~the transmission format comprises a packet data format.

17. **(Currently Amended)** The method of Claim 13, further comprising the step of entering at least one of ~~said~~the plurality of prescription requests to ~~said~~the pharmacy prescription processing subsystem with an IVR system.

18. **(Currently Amended)** The method of Claim 13, further comprising the step of processing a claim for payment for at least one of ~~said~~the plurality of prescription requests.

19. **(Currently Amended)** A method for processing prescription requests, comprising the steps of:

entering at least ~~one~~a first prescription request into a queue of prescription requests to be filled;

determining if ~~said at least one~~the first prescription request is eligible to be filled from a central fill inventory;

if ~~said at least one~~the first prescription request is eligible to be filled from ~~said~~the central fill inventory, determining if ~~said at least one~~the first prescription request can be filled by a brand name drug from ~~said~~the central fill inventory;

if ~~said at least one~~the first prescription request is not eligible to be filled from ~~said~~the central fill inventory, assigning ~~said at least one~~the first prescription request to be filled from a local inventory;

if ~~said at least one~~the first prescription request can be filled by ~~said~~the brand name drug from ~~said~~the central fill inventory, assigning ~~said~~the brand name drug to fill ~~said at least one~~the first prescription request;

if ~~said at least one~~the first prescription request cannot be filled by a brand name drug from ~~said~~the central fill inventory, determining if a second drug from ~~said~~the central fill inventory can be substituted for ~~said~~the brand name drug;

if ~~said at least one~~the first prescription request can be filled by a second drug from ~~said~~the central fill inventory, assigning ~~said~~the second drug to fill ~~said at least one~~the first prescription request;

if ~~said at least one~~the first prescription request cannot be filled by a second drug from ~~said~~the central fill inventory, assigning ~~said at least one~~the first prescription request to be filled from ~~said~~the local inventory;

if ~~said at least one~~the first prescription request has been assigned for filling from ~~said~~the central fill inventory, sending ~~said~~the prescription fill queue including ~~said~~at least onethe first prescription request to a dispensing system associated with ~~said~~the central fill inventory for filling.

20. **(Currently Amended)** . The method of Claim 19, further comprising the step of:

if ~~said-at-least-one~~the first prescription request has been assigned for filling from ~~said~~the central fill inventory, sending billing information associated with ~~said-at-least-one~~the first prescription request to a payment system.

21. **(Currently Amended)** The method of Claim 20, ~~further comprising the step of:~~ if a claim for payment associated with ~~said-at-least-one~~the first prescription request is not paid by ~~said~~the payment system within a predetermined amount of time, ~~further comprising~~ generating an error message to report that ~~said~~the claim has not been paid.

22. **(Currently Amended)** The method of Claim 19, wherein the step of sending ~~said~~the prescription fill queue including ~~said-at-least-one~~the first prescription request to ~~said~~the dispensing system associated with ~~said~~the central fill inventory for filling comprises conveying at least one data packet including ~~said-at-least-one~~the first prescription request using at least one Unix Tunnel Daemon or at least one STP Daemon.

23. **(Currently Amended)** The method of Claim 19, wherein ~~said~~the prescription fill queue comprises a plurality of prescription requests, at least one of the prescription requests requested by a physician and at least one of the prescription requests requested by a patient.

24. **(Currently Amended)** A method for processing prescription requests, comprising the steps of:

receiving a plurality of prescription requests to be filled from a pharmacy system;

selecting at least one prescription request from ~~said the~~ plurality of prescription requests;

determining if a central fill inventory has adequate inventory to fill ~~said at least one the~~ first prescription request;

if ~~said the~~ central fill inventory has adequate inventory to fill ~~said at least one the~~ first prescription request, allocating a dispense quantity for ~~said at least one the~~ first prescription request;

if ~~said the~~ central fill inventory has inadequate inventory to fill ~~said at least one the~~ first prescription request, generating an error message to report that ~~said the~~ central fill inventory has inadequate inventory to fill ~~said the~~ prescription request;

if a dispense quantity has been allocated for ~~said at least one the~~ first prescription request, dispensing ~~said the~~ dispense quantity from ~~said the~~ central fill inventory.

25. **(Currently Amended)** The method of Claim 24, further comprising the steps of:

initiating an order pull for ~~said the~~ plurality of prescription requests, ~~said the~~ plurality including ~~said at least one the~~ first prescription request having an allocated dispense quantity;

generating at least one packing slip associated with ~~said the~~ order pull; and

substantially affixing ~~said at least one the~~ first packing slip to a tote, ~~said the~~ tote including ~~said the~~ dispensed quantity from ~~said the~~ central fill inventory, and ~~said the~~ tote destined for a predetermined store.

26. **(Currently Amended)** The method of Claim 24, further comprising the steps of:

initiating an order pull for ~~said~~the plurality of prescription requests, ~~said~~the plurality including ~~said-at-least-one~~the first prescription request having an allocated dispense quantity; and

generating a summary manifest report including a plurality of orders associated with ~~said~~the order pull.

27. **(New)** The method of Claim 19, the first prescription request requested by a prescriber.

28. **(New)** The method of Claim 19, the first prescription request requested by a pharmacy customer.